

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00975 270641Z

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ACTION ARA-06

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R 261745Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2999

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0975

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FOR ARA AND EB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EPAP, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN MEAT EXPORTS TO THE U.S.

REF: STATE 042855

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE PRESENTS THE EMBASSY'S
VIEWS ON MEANS TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSAL ENDORSED HERE
BY SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR THE REALLOCATION WITHIN
REGIONS OF SHORTFALLS IN MEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER THE
VRS AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO TOLD
SECRETARY KISSINGER FEBRUARY 23 THEY DO NOT HAVE MUCH
HOPE THAT COSTA RICA WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MEAT SALES

ON ACCEPTABLE TERMS TO EUROPEAN MARKET AND ASKED THAT
USG MAKE PROVISIONS FOR INCREASED IMPORTS OF COSTA RICAN
MEAT UNDER VRS PROGRAM.

3. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT USG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
INCREASE COSTA RICA'S "QUOTA" BUT WOULD TRY TO ALLEVIATE
COSTA RICA'S PROBLEM BY ARRANGING FOR SHORTFALLS
(IN SHIPMENTS UNDER THE VRS PROGRAM) TO BE REALLOCATED
FIRST WITHIN REGIONS.

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RM IN VIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S REPORTED OPPOSITION IN
PRINCIPLE TO INCORPORATING A REGIONAL REALLOCATION
FORMULA IN VRS AGREEMENTS (REFTEL) EMBASSY SUGGESTS
THAT BEST MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL
WOULD BE NOT TO SPECIFY IN THE VRS AGREEMENTS ANY
FORMULA FOR REALLOCATING SHORTFALLS AND TO LEAVE FULL
DISCRETION TO USG TO REALLOCATE THEM AS IT SEES FIT ON
THE BASIS OF MEAT AVAILABILITY OR ANY OTHER FACTORS
THAT MAY BE RELEVANT AT THE TIME THE REALLOCATION IS
MADE. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD AVOID: A) ATTEMPTING
TO NEGOTIATE A PROVISION THAT MAY BE NON-NEGOTIABLE
FOR THE AUSTRALIANS; B) GIVING THE AUSTRALIANS A VETO
OVER AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR PROGRAM; AND C) ESTABLISHING
IN AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT A PRINCIPLE THAT
THE AUSTRALIANS FEAR MIGHT SPREAD TO OTHER COMMODITIES.
TODMAN

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